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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

612 Cotton Exchange Building  
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Food Distribution Administration

New Orleans, Louisiana.

Monday, May 3, 1943.

TRUCK CROP NEWS FROM FIELD CROPS STATISTICIANS' REPORTS.

Released May 4, 1943. -- Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

LOUISIANA: Weather during the last half of April, although too cool the third week, was generally favorable for most truck crops. However, rainfall was short; many areas being quite dry at the end of the month. Potatoes have come along unusually fast the past three weeks and carlot shipments are expected to reach considerable volume during the second week of May. Snap beans are mostly late and need rains, particularly in the Florida Parishes. Some beans were being harvested in a number of areas by May 1 but no large volume is expected on the market before the second week. Strawberries, plagued by unfavorable weather most of March and April, were attacked by mold which caused heavy losses for about 10 days beginning around April 18. Dry weather is also reducing the yield and the strawberry crop will fall far below earlier expectations.

Snap Beans: Snap beans have been coming along satisfactorily until recently but the soil is now quite dry and the crop is greatly in need of rain, particularly in the Florida Parishes. Much of the acreage is late with heavy marketings expected the second week of May and peak shipments the third week.

Cabbage: Cabbage was generally poor and most of the crop in the southern part of the State has been harvested. Late cabbage headed poorly; small heads predominate while those which attained satisfactory size are light.

POTATOES: Shipments of potatoes from the Houma area are expected to be well under way by about May 6; from the New Roads area a few days later. The movement should be at peak volume during the last half of May.

GARLIC: Garlic is doing well in Pointe Coupee Parish but the outlook is less favorable in Lafourche; harvest is beginning on a small scale in the southern part of the State.

ONIONS: Onions appear to be doing well in the New Roads area but reports indicate that the Lafourche crop is being injured by thrips and downy mildew.

STRAWBERRIES: The Louisiana strawberry crop has suffered from unfavorable weather and fungus infection to the extent that shipments apparently will not be large at any time during the season. Mold caused severe losses and to continue during the first half of May with most of the berries going to processors after that time. Immediate rains could prolong the season.

TOMATOES: In North Louisiana the weather was too cool the last half of April for tomatoes, and the crop continues to be late. Frost the middle of April took a further toll of plants and retarded growth. Most areas need rain.

WATERMELONS: Watermelons are backward due to the lateness of the season. The acreage has been reduced.

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